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USSR

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"BEN's" REPORT ON THE AUSTRALIAN
SECURITY SERVICE.

From: CANBERRA

To: MOSCOW

Nos.: 324-325

1 September 1945

[Two-part message complete]

[Part I] To VIKTOR.

"CLAUDE [KLOD]" has communicated fairly detailed information received by him from "BEN" concerning the Australian Security Service. According to these data, there existed before the war a counter-intelligence department [OTDEL], the so-called Commonwealth Investigation Branch. [1 group garbled] during the war a Security Service of police and military [2 groups unrecovered] - although subordinate to EVATT as Minister of Justice. The director of the Federal Department [DEPARTAMENT] of Security is

[60 groups unrecoverable]

[Continued overleaf]

Distribution

.....TARY[a]. By reason of this subordination the police have very big rights and powers. It deals also with the investigation [RAZRABOTKA] of "the FRATERNAL [BRATSKAYA]"[1] and carries out counter-espionage work. It has qualified permanent staff [KADROVYE] workers, a better disciplinary set up and secret

[9 groups unrecovered]

[C% work] with the Security Service while the police [4 groups unrecovered] experience of the latter. The Federal Police is comparatively unimportant. Both the above-mentioned services have departments in each state. The departments are subdivided into a number of sections. Thus, for example, in the State of New South Wales the Security Service Department consists of the following sections:

1. Investigation of the subversive activities of various organisations.
2. Investigation of anti-state activities of Germans, [2 groups unrecovered] Indonesians.
3. Chinese section.
4. Investigation of Italians, Greeks and people from the Balkans.
5. [2 groups unrecovered] and Navy and [4 groups unrecovered]; the investigation of the diplomatic and consular corps is dealt with evidently by the Investigation Branch. Each [C% operational worker] has his own agency [AGENTURA], about which no one knows except him. There are both paid and unpaid agents. For the investigation of organisations agencies are recruited within these organisations. Sometimes directors of sections carry out joint action on urgent questions of information. According to "BEN's" account the Security Service has no special [1 group unrecovered] surveillance but constant external surveillance. EVATT has a special worker in each State department whose job it is to carry out his special tasks. Thus in the State of New South Wales the Centre's deputy is Sergeant WILKE. Soon after the end of the war in the Pacific SIMPSON

[Part II]

[Continued overleaf]

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prepared an order

[7 groups unrecoverable]

he did not succeed; as EVATT [2 groups unrecovered] about the Service, said that they would still have need of it. Instead of liquidating it, it was decided to cut down its establishment. "BEN" has remained at work for the time being. He is considered there an expert on left-wing organisations, in particular on the "FRATERNAL".
← Apart from the above-mentioned material, "BEN"
← handed over to "CLAUDE" a copy of information on
← a number of organisations which are being
← investigated:

1. Political Research Society Ltd., a reactionary organisation set up by the Liberal Party to combat left-wing organisations.

2. "The Australian Legion of Ex-Servicemen". The enormous influence of the first is emphasised [C% by the] "FRATERNAL".[b]

3. "The Association of Greek Orthodox Christians" - a reactionary organisation uniting [C% right-wing] Greeks in Australia.

The documents are of operational value, as they give exact data on political personalities in these organisations. The Ministry of Home Security, which was set up for the duration of the war, was responsible for carrying out camouflage work, all defence [1 group unrecovered], guarding aerodromes and petroleum storage places, protecting the lives and property of the civilian population in wartime, blackout and other tasks. This is reported for your orientation; the materials we are sending by post.

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EFIM

T.N.: [a] Given in the Latin alphabet in the original. There are some indications that the immediately preceding letters were RE.

[b] While this appears to be what the text says, the meaning of this sentence is obscure.

Comment: [i] BRATSKAYA: the Communist Party.